

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 24-27, 30-44, and 47-80 were pending when the May 2, 2006 Office Action was mailed to Applicant. Claims 67-73 and 76-80 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 23-27, 30-44, 47-66, and 74-75 are pending.

B. The Objection to Claims 76-80 is Rendered Moot

Claims 76-80 are objected to because of various informalities. In an effort to further the prosecution and secure prompt allowance, these claims have been canceled. Therefore, this objection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

C. The Double Patenting Rejections Are Rendered Moot

Claims 67-73 and 76-80 are rejected for obviousness-type double patenting in view of the claims of U.S. Patents 6,770,710 and 6,740,699.

Applicant disagrees. These claims are not rendered obvious over the cited references. However, as noted above, in an effort to further the prosecution and secure prompt allowance, these claims have been canceled. Therefore, these rejections are rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that the cancellation of these claims should not be construed as an acquiescence to the rejections. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application directed to additional subject matter in the future.

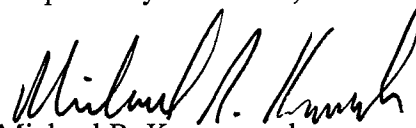
D. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present document is a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on May 2, 2006. The present case is in condition for allowance and such favorable action is requested.

It is believed that no fees are due. However, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/ESSR:052US.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (512) 536-3020 with any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Krawzsenek".

Michael R. Krawzsenek
Reg. No. 51,898
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
512.536.3020 (voice)
512.536.4598 (fax)

Date: July 28, 2006